



The Land Observatory - A platform to crowdsource large-scale land deals

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The Land Observatory is an online platform, accessible at www.landobservatory.org, to crowdsource data about large-scale land deals. It enables partners from civil society and governments to run local observatories, allowing for greater transparency and improved decision-making. Currently the Land Observatory is piloting in five countries: Cambodia, Laos, Madagascar, Peru and Tanzania. It is coordinated by the International Land Coalition and the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern.

A main aim and requirement during the development was a very flexible and highly customizable platform to fulfill very diverging demands from our partners. This could only be achieved by forgoing a GIS-similar, attribute-based data model and introducing a sophisticated model, which consists of ordered and grouped keys and values. Each local observatory specifies and adapts the allowed keys and values in configuration files, which defines a so-called profile. Only a small subset of keys is implemented in all

profiles to accomplish and enable global comparisons and analyses. Furthermore the platform is distinguished by following features:

- a filterable map and grid view
- output charts
- a user management with different roles
- an integrated review process to guarantee plausible data
- a transparent and traceable history of each deal

Due to the described open data model the platform can be applied to different contexts.

Work is underway to extract the core features and publish a context-agnostic software package under an open license.